



CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT OF HONORABLE CURT WELDON (R-PA)
CHAIRMAN, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION PROGRAM HEARING
“RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FUTURE READINESS”**

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

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Today, the Research and Development Subcommittee meets to review the Department of Defense's research, development, test, and evaluation program and budget request for Fiscal Year 1998. The purpose of the hearing is to provide subcommittee members an understanding of Defense research and development programs and the science and technology program in particular, the Defense test and evaluation program, advanced technology programs including Advanced Concept and Technology Demonstrations, the plans and programs of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency for FY98, and the Department's new Dual Use Applications program.

We are pleased to have as our witnesses:

The Honorable Anita K. Jones, Director, Defense Research and Engineering, in her last appearance before this committee.

Dr. Patricia Sanders, Director, Test, Systems Engineering and Evaluation

Mr. Thomas Perdue, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Advanced Technology)

and,

Dr. Lee Buchanan, Deputy Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we welcome you to the subcommittee and look forward to your testimony today.

The Administration's FY98 budget request for the Department of Defense RDTE program totals \$35.9 billion, an increase above the \$34.7 billion requested for FY97, but a decrease from the \$36.6 billion appropriated for FY97. Of the total requested for FY98, \$7.4 billion is for the Department's core science and technology program, a decrease from the \$7.8 billion provided in FY97. While the budget request for basic research increases, the request for exploratory development decreases. Overall, in constant FY97 dollars, the science and technology program has been reduced approximately 13% since FY94, to its lowest level since FY80. The Defense technology base (6.1 basic research and 6.2 exploratory development) is at an 18 year low, while that of the military departments is at a 35 year low.

These trends should be serious concerns, both for the Administration and for the Congress, for it is in the research and development budget account and in the science and technology account in particular that are the "seed corn" upon which the future military capability of the U.S. armed forces is based! To ensure the readiness and military capability of our forces to fight the nation's wars in the future, we must assure that we are developing today the technology that will provide the warfighting capability of the 21st Century. This and other issues which will develop during the course of today's hearing will set much of the agenda that will face this subcommittee during its consideration of the FY98 budget request for the Department of Defense.

Dr. Jones, I know that this issue and the others that will be discussed today are concerns to you and your colleagues. In your four years as Director, Defense Research and Engineering, you have represented these issues and the Department of Defense well, and I want to thank you and complement you for that contribution. I wish you well and look forward to your testimony and that of your colleagues and the question and answer period that will follow.